

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 301600Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7864

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BELFAST

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS DUBLIN 854

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT EI

SUBJ: LABOR DEPUTY OUSTED

REF: DUBLIN 805

1. THE PARLIAMENTARY LABOR PARTY HAS OUSTED DEPUTY DR. DAVID THORNLEY, AS EXPECTED, FOR HIS PARTICIPATION IN THE BANNED MARCH ORGANIZED BY THE PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN LAST SUNDAY (SEE REFTEL). THE OUSTER MEANS THAT HE IS NO LONGER TECHNICALLY IN THE GOVERNMENT GROUP, UNDER THE "WHIP", BUT IN A PRACTICAL SENSE HE WILL STILL BE PART OF THE GOVERNMENT MAJORITY SINCE HE CANNOT BE OUSTED FROM THE PARLIAMENT ITSELF AND IS NOT EXPECTED TO VOTE WITH THE OPPOSITION. THORNLEY WILL, HOWEVER, LOSE HIS SEAT IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, WHICH WILL BE TAKEN BY ANOTHER LABOR DEPUTY. HE HAS SAID HE WILL CONTEST THE NEXT ELECTION AS AN INDEPENDENT, BUT HE IS GIVEN LITTLE CHANCE AS AN OUTSIDER.

2. COMMENT: ALMOST ALL WHO KNOW HIM SAY THAT THORNLEY'S ACTION WAS PURE, MISGUIDED LIBERALISM - HE WAS PROTESTING THE PRINCIPLE OF BANNING A PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY - AND HE PERSONALLY ABHORS THE PROVISIONALS.

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HOWEVER, THE QUICK AND SEVERE ACTION OF HIS PARTY,

WHICH HAS HAD A LONG RECORD OF BEING THE FOREMOST
CHAMPIONS OF CIVIL LIBERTIES, DEMONSTRATES AGAIN
THE DETERMINATION OF RESPONSIBLE POLITICIANS HERE
TO MAKE NO COMPROMISES WITH THE TERRORISTS. ALSO,
THERE IS GOOD REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE PARTY'S LEADERS
ARE GLAD TO SEE THORNLEY GO. ALTHOUGH A BRILLIANT
AND ATTRACTIVE FIGURE, HE HAS NOT BEEN AMENABLE TO
PARTY DISCIPLINE. CURLEY

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